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for

October, 1939

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Vol. II

Record Reviews for October, 1939

No. 10

Alabiëff: Nattergalen & Tegner: Nattens Symfoni.
Karin Munk (soprano) with Juhl-Thomsens Orkester
sung in Danish. 10" imported disc, No. G-X6256,
price \$1.50.

Featured in these two selections is an artist new to most of us, Karin Munk a Danish soprano. She has a light well trained voice of beautiful quality and is adept in the intricacies of Coloratura.

Tegner's *Symphony of Night* is new to discs. It is a light waltz song and except for one spread high tone near the end this might be classed as a perfect side. The popular *Russian Nightingale Song* of Alabiëff has been recorded many times before but by reason of the excellent recording, the beauty of Miss Munk's voice and excellent execution, we feel that we prefer her singing of this to any of the other existing versions.

Albéniz: Tango, Op. 165, No. 2. See reverse side of
Cui: Kaleidoscope, Op. 50, No. 9.

Anon: Pavane from L'Orchésographie. See under
Collections - Early Cantatas and Songs.

**Arne: Suleiman and Zadie - Oh the transport of
possessing.** See under Collections - Early Cantatas
and Songs.

BACH

Bach, J. C.: Sonata in G Major, Op. 16, No. 2. Verne
Q. Powell (flute) and Claude Jean Chiasson (harpsi-
chord). 2 sides, 12" disc, No. TC-1538, price \$1.50.

Johann Christian Bach composed this sonata in two movements while living in England. It is a very charming work and the two movements are: *Allegretto*; *Andante grazioso*, the second being especially beautiful.

Our flautist, Mr. Powell, who is one of the best performers on this instrument, also has achieved great renown as a builder of flutes and in this recording uses a platinum instrument.

A charming work recorded for the first time in a most excellent manner. The balance is fine and the metal instrument imparts a bell-like tone not usually associated with this member of the wind section.

BEETHOVEN

Beethoven: Quartet in F Major, Op. 18, No. 1. The
Coolidge Quartet. 6 sides, 3-12" discs, Nos. V-12420/22
in VM-550, price complete with album \$5.00.

With the issuance of this; the first Beethoven Quartet and also the first in a new series by the Coolidge Quartet in the Junior Red Seal price range, Victor has announced that this distinguished American organization will record the entire series of Beethoven Quartets.

This should be good news for a great number of music lovers.

There are two other versions of this work available: Busch Quartet (VM-206); Léner Quartet (CM-58). Of these two the Léner's playing and interpretation is much superior to that of the Busch Quartet which is mostly violin solo. Therefore, with such a noteworthy version to make comparisons, we are happy to say that this new version, while not having quite as good an ensemble as the Léners, is an excellent reading and interpretation.

A word must be said for the recording. In the past Victor's over amplification which traded as *Higher Fidelity* is fortunately missing. On these discs we have an excellent balance between the four instruments and a faithful capturing of the individual tonal characteristics of each instrument.

We are pleased that the first album in this series is so fine and hope that the remaining recordings can be as highly recommended.

Beethoven: Quartet in F Major, Op. 135—2nd (vivace); 3rd (Lento assai, cantante) Mvts. & Paganini: Moto Perpetuo, Op. 11. NBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Arturo Toscanini. 2-12" discs, Nos. V-15547/8 in VM-590, price complete with album \$4.50.

If you are of the popular opinion that the King can do no wrong just pass over this. How to justify this set as well as to call it *Encores* is beyond our ken. String Quartets are *String Quartets* and not *morceaux* to be transcribed for the Symphony orchestra even if it be lead by the lionized Toscanini. To us this kind of thing shows the utter lack of discrimination both on the part of the conductor and the vast radio audience which applauds this type of musical butchery.

The *Moto Perpetuo* is well played but there is a good recording of it by Ormandy and the Minneapolis Symphony on V-8661 where it is coupled with Gounod's popular *Funeral March of a Marionette*, giving us a real encore disc.

The two excerpts from *Opus 135* are listed correctly above and not as on the labels: *Scherzo; Adagio*.

The more we think of the many light works which make excellent encore items the less we think of the supposedly high standards of taste on the part of some musicians. The set is divided as follows: V-15547 having the *Moto Perpetuo* and the *Vivace*; while V-15548 has both sides devoted to the *Lento*.

As a set of discs we do not recommend them. The recording is on the dry side and the big body of strings does not become the work in question.

Beethoven: Sonata in F Minor ("Appassionata") Op. 57. Rudolf Serkin (piano). 6 sides, 3-12" discs, Nos. V-15536/8 in VM-583, price complete with album \$6.50.

These discs, from Victor's *Connoisseur's Corner*, mark the debut, as a soloist, of Rudolf Serkin the well known collaborator in some of the finest chamber music discs. Often an excellent collaborator does not make a good

soloist, but Serkin demonstrates conclusively that his solo playing is on a par with his other work.

To our mind here is the best version of this popular Sonata. In the June 1939 *Record Supplement*, we had a good version by Walter Gieseking (CM-365), of which we said we felt the artist did not fully realize the emotional content. In this set, Serkin gives us a vital and compelling reading surpassing that of Fischer (VM-279). The recording is excellent although it was originally issued in England in December 1936. An exceptionally fine realization of the piano tone has been achieved. The bass is strong and full while the treble is limpid, and the technical achievements of the artist are caught with surprising clarity.

A set which we can fully recommend.

Berlioz: L'Enfance du Christ Op. 25—Part 2, No. 2. Ladieu des Bérghers (in French with orchestra) & Josquin des Prés: Ave vera virginitas (Motet unaccompanied). Strasbourg Cathedral Choir directed by Abbé Alphonse Hoch. 12" disc. No. C-69693D, price \$1.50.

Those who bought the outstanding recording of part 3 of this Oratorio by Jean Planel (C-P69340D) will welcome this companion disc. The part recorded here immediately precedes that fine disc. The *Farwell of the Shepherds* is a beautiful chorus, well sung with a light wood-wind accompaniment and is very clear.

Josquin des Prés (c.1445-1521) was one of the first musicians who impressed by his genius and held a high place until the appearance of Lassus and Palestrina. This unaccompanied motet will bear repeated listening and it is recorded beautifully. The balance of the Choir and the clarity of the recording would make this an outstanding disc aside from the fact that the music is of the utmost importance. Abbé Hoch and his choir have served us well.

BIZET

Bizet: Carmen—Suite. London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham. 4 sides, 2-12" discs, Nos. C-69689/90D in CM-X144, price complete with album \$3.50.

There are several version of Suites from the music of this Opera which have been available in the past, but without a doubt here is the best. The arrangement is as follows:

Prelude, Act I (last part); Prelude, Act IV (Aragonaise); & Prelude, Act II (Les Dragons d'Alcala); Avec la garde montante, Act I (C-69689D). Prelude, Act III; Prelude, Act I (first part); & Danse Bohème, Act II (C-69690D).

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have heard this brilliant orchestra under Sir Thomas's direction felt the news of the disbandment of this organization as a keen personal loss. The rigors of war have caused the London Philharmonic to discontinue. Beecham and his men have given us some of the best recordings in the entire musical literature. Here they are at their best and the excellent recording which they have received give a most life-like performance. The spaciousness and definition, together with a vital reading, make this an outstanding set.

Bizet: I Pescatore di Perle—Mi par d'udir ancora.
See under Collections—From The Opera.

BLOCH

Bloch: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra. Joseph Szigeti and Orchestre de la Société des Concerts du Conservatoire, Paris, conducted by Charles Munch. 8 sides, 4-12" discs, Nos. C-69675/8D in CM-380, price complete with album \$6.00.

This release of the Bloch Concerto by the violinist who introduced the work to the world on December 15, 1938 at Cleveland, puts us in debt to Columbia. It would be impossible to get a more authoritative performance of this difficult and dazzling work. Ernest Newman writing after the London premier in March said, "Ernst Bloch is one of the two or three composers of the present day who really matter."

The Concerto is in three movements, they are: *Allegro deciso moderato assai* (4 sides); *Andante calmo* (1¾ sides); and *Deciso allegro moderato* (2¾ sides). The scoring is typical of Bloch, colorful, dark hued with a slightly oriental flavor. This is music of the utmost importance and will stand many repeated hearings before all of its beauties are apparent. The composer has mentioned that the themes are treated "kaleidoscopically," and combine with each other throughout the work, disappearing and reappearing "like characters in a drama," to use his own words. The most important subject which permeates the music is that given out by the wind and brass at the beginning: this takes various forms in the course of the work, and is used in a final passage by the soloist.

Szigeti's performance is excellent, and the orchestra plays admirably. The recording is good, clear and well-balanced in the orchestra, with a good deep bass; the violin tone is excellent.

A definite "must".

BRAHMS

Brahms: Concerto (Violin and Orchestra) in D Major, Op. 77. Jascha Heifetz and The Boston Symphony Orchestra conducted by Serge Koussevitzky. 9 sides, 5-12" discs, Nos. V-15526/30S in VM-581, price complete with album \$9.00.

Still we wait for the ideal realization of this concerto. We had hoped that this would be it, but this set just falls short of the mark. Koussevitzky, excellent musician that he is, does not succeed any too well as a conductor of Brahms. The soloist and the orchestra play magnificently but the results are not convincing.

At present there are three versions available: Szigeti (CM-117) which despite its age is from an interpretative point of view the finest; Kreisler (VM-402) a mildly disappointing set; and Kulenkampff (T-E2074/8) a warm and glowing performance. The new version is technically superior to all of these but after all technique does not satisfy alone. As a recorded performance it will be some time before a better version will make its appearance. The fine acoustics of Symphony Hall and the excellent work done by the recording engineers have given us one of the best modern sets of discs. A most life-like tone and a very distinct definition make this a breath-taking set which unfortunately is not fully supported by the artists.

Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem, Op. 45—No. 5, "Thu habst nun Traurigkeit," Hildegard Erdmann (soprano) with Chorus and Orchestra conducted by Seidler-Winkler. 12" imported disc, No. G-C3107, price \$2.00.

Here is a disc that causes the reviewer to run out of adjectives. An outstanding performance in every sense of the word.

Miss Erdmann, a young German soprano with a beautiful well trained voice, sings this moving passage in a most convincing manner. Her cool, clear, effortless tones float over the choir and orchestra in a remarkable manner. The choir and orchestra are well placed and we get a sense of perspective not usually obtained in recordings of this kind. A magnificent performance which surpasses that of either Emmy Betterdorf (D-25282) or Florence Austral (V-9395).

Brahms: Hungarian Dances No. 1, in G Minor & No. 17, in F-sharp Minor (arr. Joachim). Yehudi Menuhin (violin) and Marcel Gazelle (piano). 2 sides, 10" disc, No. V-2010, price \$1.50.

Two of the popular Hungarian Dances in an exceptionally fine performance. Formerly available on G-DA1491.

Good performances and excellent recording.

Bridge: Love Went A-Riding. See reverse side of
Dvorak: Songs My Mother Taught Me.

Cilea: L'Arlesiana—Lamento di Federico. See under
Collections—From The Opera.

CHOPIN

Chopin: Prelude in D Minor, Op. 28, No. 24. See
reverse side Stravinsky: Pastorale.

Chopin: Sonata No. 2, in B-flat Minor, Op. 35. (5
sides) & Mazurka No. 6, in A Minor, Op. 7, No. 2.
(1 side). Edward Kilenyi (piano). 3-12" discs, Nos.
C-P69669/71D, in CM-378, price complete with album
\$5.00.

This is the Second Sonata; "the one with the Funeral
March." Played as it is here by Kilenyi in a remarkable
recording made originally for Pathé, we find it a very fine
interpretation of one of Chopin's greatest masterpieces.

Comparing Kilenyi's version with that of Cortot (G-
DB2019/20) we find much to admire in the two artists.
Cortot having perhaps the edge in the first movement;
while Kilenyi plays the famous third movement (Funeral
March) with a deeper poetic insight. The tone of Kilenyi
is less brittle.

The recording is excellent, a beautiful clear tone faith-
fully captured, and quiet surfaces make this a desirable
set.

The Mazurka No. 6 is also played with great beauty of
tone and true poetic insight.

Couperin: Les Petits Moulins à Vent; Soeur Monique;
Le Trophée. See Franck: Les Eolides.

Cui: Kaleidoscope, Op. 50, No. 9 — Orientale &
Albeniz: Tango, Op. 165, No 2 (arr. Kreisler).
Emanuel Feuermann (cello) and Gerald Moore (piano).
10" disc, No. C-17158D, price \$1.00.

An excellent recording of two popular favorites. Both are
beautifully played and the recording is of Columbia's best.

Donizetti: Lucia di Lammermoor — Fra poco a me
ricovero, Act III & Puccini: Manon Lescaut—Donna
non videra mai, Act I. Galliano Massini (tenor) with
orchestra. 10" disc, No. C-17159D, price \$1.00.

Massini, the popular new Italian tenor of the Metropolitan,
sings these two arias with distinction but not quite the
finest we expect from him. There is too much of a tear
in the voice for a refined and stylistic performance. The
voice is well produced and the recording is excellent but
they are not the restrained performances we are accustomed
to in America.

DVORAK

Dvorak: Goin' Home (adaptation by William Arms
Fisher from 5th Symphony — 2nd Mvt. — Largo).
Lawrence Tibbett (baritone) with orchestra conducted
by Alexander Smallens & Traditional: The Bailiff's
Daughter. Lawrence Tibbett (baritone) with Stewart
Wille (piano). 12" disc, No. V-15548, price \$2.00.

The popular Goin' Home is effectively coupled with an
old traditional English song and both are well sung by
Mr. Tibbett.

Dvorak: Songs My Mother Taught Me, Op. 55, No.
4. & Bridge: Love Went A-Riding. Kirsten Flagstad
(soprano) and Edwin McArthur (piano). 10" disc,
No. V-2009, price \$1.50.

Both of these songs frequently appear on Mme Flag-
stad's concert programs. Here they are sung in impeccable
English but no more than that. The recordings were made
in Europe several seasons ago and they are not good
facsimiles of the famous Flagstad voice.

FRANCK

Franck: Les Eolides (Poème Symphonique), (3 sides).
& Couperin: Les Petits Moulins à Vent; Soeur
Monique; Le Trophée ((freely arranged and transcribed
by Filippi), (1 side). Columbia Broadcasting Symphony
conducted by Howard Barlow. 2-12" discs, Nos.
C-69685/6D in CM-X145, price complete with album
\$3.50.

Columbia fills a long felt want in a most acceptable
manner with this excellent set. Les Eolides, written in
1876, was Franck's first orchestral work. The premier
took place in Paris at the Société Nationale concert on
May 13, 1877. The first American performance being by
the Chicago Orchestra under Theodore Thomas in 1894.

The work derives its title from the Greek god of the
winds, Aeolus. It is in one movement; *Allegro vivo*.

The recording is excellently accomplished. A very fine balance is maintained in the orchestra and a good sense of depth gives us a set with life-like characteristics. The various instruments of the orchestra stand out clearly but are not over emphasized.

Mr. Barlow and his men present a very fine reading and we can recommend this as an excellent "first".

Gounod: Faust—Salut demeure. See under Collections—From The Opera.

Gounod: Romeo et Juliette—L'amour son ardeur à trouble tout mon être. See under Collections—From The Opera.

Grieg: En Svane, Op. 25, No. 2. Jordan: Horer Du & Drick: Lauritz Melchior (tenor) and Ignace Strasfogel (piano). 10" disc, No. V-2007, price \$1.50.

During the past two years there have been some very notable additions to the lists of the Scandinavian song literature. *En Svane* has been sung by Flagstad on V-1814 but perhaps the finest disc has been Norena's exquisite *From Monte Pinco* (V-15180). This disc of Melchior can join that distinguished company. The voice is strong and fresh and the balance is good.

A little disc which should give many moments of enjoyment.

Hahn: L'heure exquise & Cimetière de Campagne. Ninon Vallin (soprano) and Pierre Darck (piano). 2 sides, 10" disc, No. C-P17160D, price \$1.00.

We have yet to get a less than good disc from Mme. Vallin. Here she is in her finest form and a disc of outstanding merit is the result. Quite some time ago we had *L'heure exquise* on D-20504 with the composer accompanying but this new disc is much better sung. In fact her singing on this disc is very beautiful and the lesser known *Cimetière* makes this a worthwhile addition to your record library. The piano accompaniment is good and a fine balance adds to the charm of this disc.

HANDEL

Handel: Concerto Grosso in D, Op. 6, No. 5. London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Felix Weingartner. 4 sides, 2-12" discs, Nos. C-69691/2D in CM-X142, price complete with album \$3.50.

It has been rumored that Weingartner and the London Philharmonic have made the complete series of the *Concerti Grossi*. We sincerely hope that this is true for this set of No. 5 is one of the most beautiful that we have heard.

In the June 1939 *Record Supplement* we had a fine version of this concerto by Hermann Diener and his Collegium Musicum (G-C3065/6) which was noteworthy. This new version by Weingartner is differently conceived. The harpsichord is replaced by a piano and the inner voices are not as clear. However, Weingartner and the Orchestra play in a most elegant manner.

The recording is excellent and a good sense of proportion brings even the lightest string tone out faithfully.

Handel: Organ Concerto No. 10, in D Minor, Op. 7, No. 4. E Power Biggs with Arthur Fiedler's Sinfonietta. 4 sides 2-12" discs, Nos. V-15545/6 in VM-587, price complete with album \$4.50.

It was with keen anticipation we awaited the arrival of these discs. At last a complete organ concerto of Handel would be available in a modern recording. Well the concerto is available but most emphatically not recommended. A poorer balance would be difficult to achieve. The organ drowns out the accompanying strings and the over amplification (or should we say *Higher Fidelity*) mars what might be classified as an adequate performance.

We sincerely recommend that the Victor engineers listen carefully to the very fine disc of Alfred Sittard and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Leopold Ludwig on PD-67257. There an excellent balance and clean recording enhance the work. Domestically Musicraft has given us good organ recordings and also Technicord so why not Victor?

Haydn: Menuet and Fugue. See reverse side **Purcell: Fantasia No. 3.**

IBERT

Ibert: Concerto da Camera (for Saxophone and Orchestra) (3 sides) & Vellones: Rhapsody for Alto Saxophone (1 side). Marcel Mule and Orchestra conducted by Philippe Gaubert. 2-12" discs Nos. V-12475/6 in VM-588, price complete with album \$3.50.

This charming little work in the old style only whets our appetite for more of this interesting popular French composer's works. Escales is one which should be re-recorded.

The *Concerto da camera* is in three movements: *Allegro con molto*; *Larghetto*; and *Animato molto*. The themes are well worked out and the orchestration is delightful. Veltones' *Rhapsody for Alto Saxophone* has an accompaniment for Harp and Celeste.

Mule produces a very beautiful tone from his instrument and the accompanying orchestra keeps in perfect balance throughout the recording. A *Coinnoisseur* item which should have a wide appeal.

Jordan: Horer Du & Drick. See Grieg: *En Svane*.

Josquine des Près: *Ave vera virginitas*. See reverse side of Berlioz: *L'Enfance du Christ*.

LaJo: *Roi d'Ys—Vainement, ma bien aimée*. See under Collections—From The Opera.

Liszt: *Valse oubliée No. 1 & Consolation No. 3*, in D-flat Major. Emil Sauer (piano). 12" disc, No. C-69688D, price \$1.50.

The first of a new series of solo discs made by this renowned veteran of the keyboard. The recording is excellent and the choice of material is not too hackneyed. The *Valse* was recorded by Horowitz (V-1455) and Barer (G-DB2376), while Rubinstein (G-DB3216) has given us *Consolation*.

Sauer's sensitive and poetical approach to these two pieces places them in a different light and we can recommend this as an excellent disc from both the interpretative and technical view. The piano tone is very beautiful throughout.

Lully: *Orchestral Excerpts from four Operas*. Orchestre Symphonique conducted by Maurice Cauchie. 4 sides, 2-10" discs, Nos. C-P17148/9D in CM-376, price complete with album \$2.50.

This set of discs is interesting from many points of view but perhaps the most important is that the recorders have kept Lully's orchestration. The numbers are:

1. *Ayts* (1676)—*Gavotte*, 2. *Amadis* (1684)—*Menuet & Prisoerine* (1680)—*Menuet des ombres heureuses* (C-P17148D) *Thesée* (1675)—*Ouverture & Marche des Sacrificateurs* (C-P17149D)

Lully (b. 1633 at Florence) was taken to France when eleven years old and became one of the greatest composers of his day. His influence on the future of music was lasting. He composed many ballets for Louis XIV and made many innovations in music for the stage. The excerpts which are

contained in this album are some of the finest pages of his work.

The Orchestre under Mons. Cauchie's sensitive direction play these selections in a very beautiful and musicianally manner. An interesting set of discs to add to your library of good music.

Massenet: *Manon—Ahl fuyez, douce image!* See under Collections—From The Opera.

Meyerbeer: *Le Prophète—Les Patineurs*, Act III. (Ballet Suite arranged by C. Lambert). Sadler's Wells Orchestra conducted by Constant Lambert. 2 sides, 12" imported disc, No. G-C3105, price \$2.00.

An excellent disc by the renowned Sadler's Wells Orchestra conducted by the young Englishman who has won an enviable place for himself in the field of Opera and Ballet. The Skating Scene from Act III of Meyerbeer's neglected opera abounds in tunefulness. On this disc Mr. Lambert has divided the work as follows: *Entre*; *Pas de Patineuses*; *Pas de deux*; *Pas de trois*. The orchestra plays well and the recording is excellent.

Monteverdi: *L'Incoronazione di Poppea—Sento un certo non so che*. See under Collections—Early Cantatas and Songs.

MOZART

Mozart: *Concerto No. 2, in D Major (for Flute and Orchestra)* K. 314. Marcel Moyse with Orchestra conducted by Piero Coppola. 4 sides, 2-12" discs, Nos. V-12477/8 in VM-589, price complete with album \$3.50.

The Flute Concertos were written at the behest of a wealthy Dutchman in 1777. There are three movements: *Allegro aperto*; *Andante ma non troppo*; *Allegro*. In this recording the Donjon cadenza is used and the finale is cut.

The playing and recording is very good. A fine sense of balance and the beautiful tone of the soloist provide us with an interesting set of discs.

Mozart: *Sonata (Violin and Piano) No. 24, in C Major*, K.296. Nathan Milstein and Arthur Balsam. 4 sides, 2-12" discs, Nos. C-69683/4D in CM-X143, price complete with album \$3.50.

This work also dates from Mozart's visit to Mannheim in 1777. It is one of the seven sonatas for violin and piano and was composed in one day, March 11, 1778, just before his departure. There are three movements: *Allegro vivace*; *Andante sostenuto*; *Rondo (Allegro)*. Milstein and Balsam combine their talent in another fine performance but we do not think that they have the ideal approach to Mozart. More noteworthy was the exquisite performance by Lili Kraus and Simon Goldberg in the Parlophone Mozart Chamber Music Society—Vol. I. This new version, while not measuring up to the Kraus and Goldberg one, is well played and recorded.

Mozart: Symphony No. 41 in C Major ("Jupiter")

K.551. Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Bruno Walter. 7 sides, 4-12" discs, Nos. V-12467/70S in VM-584, price complete with album \$5.75

Victor Connoisseur's Corner brings us Walter's fine reading of the famous Jupiter. Originally released in England in March 1938 it aroused very favorable comment. For us there has been only one, and there still is only one, recording of this work. Beecham (CM-194) has given us a reading which so far remains unsurpassed. Comparing these two conductor's versions we still prefer the older Beecham version. The recording is still fresh but of course not as brilliant nor as clearly defined as the new Walter one.

If you are a stickler for bright and clearly defined work we can recommend this new set but if you like a little more polish and elegance we urge you to listen to both before making a decision.

Paganini: Moto Perpetuo, Op. 11. See Beethoven: Quartet in F Major, Op. 135.

Puccini: Manon Lescaut—Donna non videri mai, Act I. See Donizetti: Lucia di Lammermoor,

Purcell: Fantasia No. 3 (arr. Warlock) & Haydn: Menuet and Fugue. The Pasquier Trio. 12" disc, No. C-P69687D, price \$1.50.

This lovely *Three Part Fantasy in G Minor* is well played and recorded but the Pasquiers do not quite get the essential English *feel* of the music. The Haydn label is a bit ambiguous. It may prove to be from the early divertimenti. The key is C Major.

An interesting but not a remarkable disc.

Rameau: Cantata — L'Impatience. See under Collections — Early Cantatas and Songs.

Schütz: Cantata — Ich werde nicht sterben. See under Collections — Early Cantatas and Songs.

R. STRAUSS

R. Strauss: Salome — Salomes Tanz. Saxon State Orchestra conducted by Karl Böhm. 2 sides, 12" imported disc, No. G-DB4639, price \$2.50.

This is another of those superior recordings of the Saxon Orchestra. The conductor takes the music at the slower pace which it is played in the Opera, not the usual faster pace that is used in the concert version.

The brilliant tone coloring and the complex orchestration is faithfully caught, with a quality of string tone and the timbre of the tympani standing out in bold relief when compared with the older versions. All of the exotic coloring and barbaric splendor is fully revealed here.

STRAVINSKY

Stravinsky: Pastorale & Chopin: Prelude in D Minor, Op. 28, No. 24 (transcribed by L. Stokowski). Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski. 10" disc, No. V-1998, price \$1.50.

The Stravinsky *Pastorale* is a delightful composition and the orchestra and conductor do it justice. The Chopin *Prelude* is one of the worst examples of transcription.

von Suppé: Morning, Noon and Night in Vienna. Boston "Pops" Orchestra conducted by Arthur Fielder. 2 sides, 12" disc, No. V-12479, price \$1.50.

A nice clean recording of this popular overture. The "Pops" plays this type of work well and when given good recording, as in this disc, they distinguish themselves. In the cause of popular classical music if the Victor engineers would take the necessary time and effort with this organization some excellent recordings would result.

Tegner: Nattens Symfoni. See reverse side Alabiéff: Nattergalen.

Telemann: Liebe, liebe. See under Collections — Early Cantatas and Songs.

Vellones: Rhapsody for Alto Saxophone. See Ibert: Concertino da Camera.

VERDI

Verdi: Otello — *Gia nella notte densa — Venga la morte*, Act I. Tiana Lemnitz (soprano) and Torsten Ralf (tenor) in German with Berlin State Opera Orchestra directed by B. Seidler-Winkler. 2 sides, 12" imported disc, No. G-DB4668, price \$2.50.

We must admit that this disc is a bit of a surprise. The tenor is exceptionally good and the soprano not quite up to her usual standard. Ralf does not force his voice and sings throughout with good tone and expression. The language does not help either for *un bacio* and *o küsse mich* while they mean the same, certainly do not sound the same. The recording is one of the finest, handling the voices and the orchestra with equal fidelity. The harp and the cellos are exceptionally clear. A magnificent recording falling just short of perfection.

COLLECTIONS

Early Cantatas and Songs. Isabel French (soprano) and Hugues Cuenod (tenor) with Claude Jean Chaisson (harpsichord) and small chamber orchestra. 10 sides, 3-10" and 2-12" discs, Nos. TC-11/15 in T-2, price \$5.75.

The works presented in this excellent set are as follows:

Schütz: Cantata — *Ich werde nicht sterben*. Hugues Cuenod (tenor) and Orchestra (3 sides).

Telemann: Liebe, Liebe, Aria from an unidentified opera. Isabel French (soprano) with harpsichord and cello (1 side).

Monteverdi: L'Incoronazione di Poppea — *Sento un certo non so che*. Isabel French (soprano) with harpsichord and cello. (1 side).

Anon: Pavane — *Belle qui tient ma vie*, from *L'Orchésographie* of Arbeau. Isabel French (soprano) with harpsichord (1 side).

Rameau: Cantata — *L'Impatience*. Hugues Cuenod (tenor) with harpsichord and cello (3 sides).

Arne: Suleiman and Zadie — *Oh the transport of possessing*. Isabel French (soprano) and Hugues Cuenod (tenor) with harpsichord and orchestra (1 side).

All of the composers represented here are from the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Dr. Arne, represented by an excerpt from a little known opera, is

the most recent. With the exception of the Schütz cantata all of the works are recorded for the first time. One has only to listen to a very small part of the first disc to realize that this is one of the outstanding sets that has reached us in many months. That, it is the work of true musicians and artists is apparent by the fine choice of material and excellent execution and recording.

An excellent booklet accompanies the set giving a brief and concise description of the works and their authors.

Every one of the selections recorded here are done in the best possible manner by the artists. Specially interesting is the exquisite Arne duet *Oh the transport of possessing*, sung in a most delightful style by the soprano and tenor. Also, no lover of Rameau can afford to overlook the excellent interpretation by Cuenod of the very difficult *L'Impatience*. These are but two examples of the very fine artistry contained in this set.

We cordially recommend this set to all of those who are not acquainted with the older composers but do like artistic singing and execution. From a technical side all are recorded in a most life like manner with a good balance between the voice and the accompanying instruments.

FROM THE OPERA

From The Opera. Six arias sung by Richard Crooks (tenor) with orchestra conducted by Wilfred Pelletier. 3-12" discs, Nos. V-15542/4 in VM-585, price complete with album \$6.50.

Gounod: Faust — *Salut demeure (Act III) & Romeo et Juliette* — *L'amour son ardeur, Ah! lève-toi soleil (Act II)* (V-15542)

Masanet: Manon — *Ah! fuyez, douce image (Act III) & Lalo: Roi d'Ys* — *Vainement, ma bien aimée (Act III)* (V-15543)

Bizet: I Pescatori di Perle — *Mi par d'udir ancora (Act I) & Cilea: L'Arlesiana* — *Lamento di Fredrico* (V-15544)

A more matter of fact presentation of these arias would be hard to find. The first four are sung in French while the last two are sung in Italian. There is little to be said for Mr. Crooks interpretations as he sings in a most disinterested manner with a nasal tone. These are all love songs not declamations of an agonized Othello.

The accompanying orchestra is well recorded and there is a good balance between the voice and the accompaniment but why no organ in the Manon excerpt?

CORONATION OF PIUS XII

Commemorating The Election and Coronation of His Holiness Pope Pius XII. Electrically transcribed from the short wave broadcast to the United States. 6 sides, 3-12" discs, complete with album \$7.50

This unique album comprises the following: Benediction by the Holy Father; parts from the Mass on the Day of the Coronation of the Holy Father; descriptions of the resplendent election and coronation ceremonies of Pope Pius at St. Peter's. This together with a running commentary by the Reverend John T. Delaney, S. J., has been effectively transcribed to discs.

FOLK MUSIC

AMERICAN NEGRO

Favorite Negro Spirituals. The Hampton Institute Quartet (G. F. Hamilton, Gregory Kiah, Jeremiah Thomas and William Byrd). 10 sides, 5-10" discs, Nos. MC-230/4 in MC-35, price complete with album \$5.50.

An album for the devotee of the Spiritual. This collection contains some of the best known but less frequently recorded items. The titles are: *Goin' to Shout All Over God's Heav'n*; *Reign Massa Jesus*; *Little David, Play on Your Harp*; *In Bright Mansions Above*; *Ezekiel Saw de Wheel*; *Mary an' Martha Jes' Gone 'Long*; *I Want To Be Ready*; *Ole-Time Religion*; *De Ole Ark a-Moverin' Along*; *Want to Go to Heaven When I Die*. A truly authentic set of discs, well recorded and beautifully sung.

ARMENIAN

Folk Songs and Dances. Played by Nicolas Matthey and his Oriental Orchestra. 12 sides, 6-10" discs, Nos. D-2715/9 in D-68, price \$2.25.

A collection of authentic Armenian music played in authentic style by Nicolas Matthey and his Oriental Orchestra. The titles are: *Hail to Antranik & Wedding Dance* (D-2715); *Sweetheart & The Morning Tea - The Fruit Vendor* (D-27216); *Lullaby & Rangui - Tashn Tchors* (D-2717); *The Stork & The Sweet Vendor - Down in the Valley* (D-2718); *Armenian Air - Little House & Bosphorus* (D-2719).

Excellent played and recorded.

FOLK SONGS OF CENTRAL EUROPE

Folk Songs of Central Europe. The Trapp Family Choir directed by Dr. Franz Wasner. 10 sides 5-10" discs, Nos. V-2002/6 in VM-586, price complete with album \$7.50.

The contents of this album have been arranged by Dr. Wasner with the exceptions noted below:

Wach auf, wach auf (arr. Walter Rein). & *Es wird scho' glei dumpa* (V-2002)

Der Mond ist aufgegangen (arr. F. Gofferje) & *Maria durch ein Dornwald gting* (V-2003)

In einem kühlen grunde & *Der Späte abend* (V-2004)

Andreas Hoffers abschied vom leben & 1. *Lavntal*, 2. *Die änglan voll wasser* (V-2005)

Bist einmal kommen, du Heiland der Welt & *Schönster Herr Jesu* (V-2006)

Personally we do not think this a good collection. There is too much of the sameness. Why not a variety of moods? Also the thin white tone of the group becomes a bit tiresome. The director has a tendency to linger over effects and thus spoil what otherwise might have been an acceptable disc.

HUNGARIAN

Aza-Szep, Aza-szep; Kislany Czit Czit; Szepa Rozsam; A Faluban & Kalman: Countess Maritza - Play Gypsies. Charles Vaida with Eugen Pertis Tzigane Orchestra. 10" imported disc, No. G-K8322, price \$1.50.

An interesting little disc sung in Hungarian. The voice is rich and well produced and the Tzigane orchestra adds no little charm to the delightful renderings of these numbers.

RUSSIAN

Song of The Volga Boatmen (arr. Kelberine) & Deep River (American Negro melody arr. Kelberine). Jeanne Behrend and Alexander Kelberine (two pianos). 10" disc, No. V-1999, price \$1.50.

There is no excuse for a disc of this type. Surely the artists could have found better ways of using their talents.

Kartalsky: Ich Glaube & Anon: Aus der Abendliturgie.
Don Cossack Choir conducted by Serge Jaroff. 12" disc, No. C-7355M, price \$1.25.

Two fine examples of Russian Church Music. Well sung and recorded by the famous Don Cossacks.

DICTION

Abe Lincoln In Illinois. Raymond Massey with supporting cast in scenes from the Pulitzer Prize Play of 1939 by Robert E. Sherwood. 6 sides, 3-12" discs, Nos. V-36230/2 in VM-591, price complete with album \$3.50.

Raymond Massey supported by Adele Longmire, Kevin McCarthy, Calvin Thomas and Wendell K. Phillips in the following scenes from the play: Act I — Lincoln's proposal to Ann Rutledge; Act II — Lincoln's law office; Lincoln's Prayer. Act III — Lincoln's reply to Stephen A. Douglas; Lincoln's Farewell to Springfield.

A set of discs which should prove invaluable to the student of the theatre. A remarkable and timely recording.

The Voice of Poetry — Vol. I (An Anthology of Recorded Verse). Edith Evans. 12 sides, 6-10" discs, Nos. C-17151/6D in CM-375, price complete with album \$6.00.

This collection of thirty poems presented by Miss Evans covers a wide range of moods and time. Commencing with Shakespeare and Ben Johnson there are nineteen other authors represented. This volume is issued under the auspices of the annual Oxford Festival of Spoken Poetry, and passed by its Directorate of four well-known living poets.

A few of the selections are: Shakespeare — *To Me Fair Friend*; Robert Herrick — *A Child's Grace*; Wordsworth — *The Reaper*; Lord Byron — *She Walks in Beauty*; Keats — *La Belle Dame sans Merci*; Lewis Carroll — *Father William*; de la Mare — *A Song of Enchantment*; etc. Beautifully spoken and recorded, this is a set will be of great assistance to the teacher of speech.

An attractive booklet of notes by Wallace B. Nichols, with an introduction by Laurance Binyon, accompanies the set.

SALON ALBUMS

Deanna Durbin Souvenir Album No. 2.

Including: *One Fine Day & Spring in My Heart* (D-15044); *Because & Ave Maria* (D-2757); *The Last Rose of Summer & Home Sweet Home* (D-2758). 1-12" and 2-10" discs in D-75, price \$1.95.

Victor Herbert Melodies — Vol. 3.

Including: *Princess Pat — Love is best of all & Miss Dolly Dollars*; *Badinage & Fleurette*; *Sweethearts — Jeanette and her Little Wooden Shoes & Air de Ballet*; *Natoma — Habanera and Vaquero's Song & It Happened in Nordland — Al Fresco*; *Suite of Serenades — No. 1, Spanish & No. 3, Cuban*. 10 sides, 5-10" discs, Nos. D-2685/89 in D-73, price \$2.25.

Fritz Kreisler's Compositions.

Including: *Liebeslied*; *Liebesfreud*; *Caprice Viennois*; *March Miniature Viennoise*; *Old Refrain*; *Polichinelle Serenade*; *Tambourin Chinois, Op. 3*; *Syncopation*; *Schön Rosmarin*; *La Gitana*. Played by Harry Horlick and Decca Salon Orchestra. 10 sides, 5-10" discs, Nos. D-2710/4 in D-67, price \$2.25.

Famous Waltzes — Vol. I.

Including: *Gypsy Baron — Sweetheart Waltz*; *Southern Roses*; *The Great Waltz — Selections*; *Gold and Silver*; *Over the Waves*. Anton and the Paramount Theatre Orchestra, London, with Al Bollington at the organ. 6 sides, 3-10" discs, Nos. V-26322/4 in P-7, price \$2.75.

IRVING BERLIN SONGS

Vol. I — Played by Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra on 10 sides, 5-10" discs, Nos. D-2690/4 in D-70, price \$2.25.

Includes: *Say It With Music & Lady of the Evening*; *All Alone & Remember*; *Easter Parade & Say It Isn't So*; *How Deep Is The Ocean? & Russian Lullaby*; *Crinoline Days & Tell Me Little Gypsy*.

Vol. II — Played by Paul Whiteman and his various groups. 10 sides, 5-10" discs, Nos. D-2695/9 in D-71, price \$2.25.

Includes: *Alexander's Ragtime Band & Nobody Knows*; *Lazy & Mandy*; *Heat Wave & Home Again Blues*; *Blue Skies & What'll I Do?*; *A Pretty Girl Is Like a Melody & Soft Lights and Sweet Music*.

THE ANNUAL CONNOISSEUR LIST

The works listed below are the latest additions of unusual recordings which are added to the Victor lists every year. We believe these additions will be available shortly after October first and reviews will appear in the next Supplement.

- BACH, J. C.:** Concerto in G Major, Op. 7, No. 6. Marguerite Roesgen-Champion (Harpsichord) with violins and cello. 4 sides 2-10" discs, Nos. V-4441/2, price \$2.00 the pair.
- BEETHOVEN:** Septet in E-flat Major, Op. 20. A. Catterall, B. Shore, A. Gauntlett, E. Cruft, F. Thurston, A. Camden and Thonger. 10 sides, 5-12" discs, Nos. V-12450/4 in VM-571, price complete with album \$7.50.
- BRUCKNER:** Mass in E Minor. The Aachen Cathedral Choir with winds conducted by Th. B. Rehmann. 12 sides, 6-12" discs, Nos. V-15583/8 in VM-596, price complete with album \$12.00.
- CHAVEZ:** Sinfonia India; Sinfonia de Antígona & Buxtehude: Chacona (arr. Chávez). Carlos Chávez and the Symphony Orchestra of Mexico. 8 sides, 4-12" discs, Nos. V-12337/40 in VM-503, price complete with album \$6.50.
- FAURE:** Quartet No. 1, in C Minor (for Violin, Viola, Cello and Piano). Op. 15. Henri & Alice Merkel, G. Marchesini and E. Zurfluh-Tenroc. 8 sides, 4-12" discs, Nos. V-12481/4 in VM-594, price complete with album \$6.50.
- HANDEL:** Suites: No. 2, in F Major; No. 5, in E Major; No. 7, in G Minor; No. 10, in D Minor; No. 14, in G Major. Wanda Landowska (harpsichord). 12 sides, 6-12" discs, Nos. V-15550/5 in VM-592, price complete with album \$12.00.
- HAYDN:** Quartets: B-flat Major, Op. 1, No. 1; E-flat Major, Op. 20, No. 1; B-flat Major, Op. 55, No. 3; B-flat Major, Op. 76, No. 4. Pro Arte Quartet. 14 sides, 7-12" discs, Nos. V-15569/75 in VM-595, price complete with album \$14.00.
- HINDEMITH:** Sonata No. 3, for Viola and Piano (1939). Paul Hindemith (viola) and Jesus Maria Sanroma (piano). 7 sides, 4-10" discs, Nos. V-1987/90-S in VM-572, price complete with album \$5.75.
- MONTEVERDI:** 1. Maledetto; 2. Chiome d'Ore & d'India: Lagrimo occhi miei; Monteverdi: Madrigal-Ohime dov'è il mio ben. (realizations by Claude Crussard). Milles. Castellazi and Sedira with "Ars rediviva". 2 sides, 12" disc, No. V-15466, price \$2.00.
- NEUBAUER:** Adagio for Flute and Viola & Handel: Sonata for two Flutes. Marcel and Louis Moyse and Blanche Honegger. 2 sides, 12" disc, No. V-12492, price \$1.50.
- RAMEAU:** La Pantomime & 1. L'Indiscrète; 2. La Rameau. "Ars Rediviva". 2 sides, 12" disc, No. V-12490, price \$1.50.
- Suite in E Minor.** Wanda Landowska (harpsichord). 6 sides, 3-12" discs, Nos. V-15562/4 in VM-593, price complete with album \$6.50.
- ROSENMULLER:** Sonata in E Minor. Noëlie Pierront (organ), de Lacour (Harpsichord) and "Ars Rediviva" conducted by Claude Crussard. 2 sides, 12" disc, V-12489, price \$1.50.
- ROUSSEL:** Le Jardin Mouillé & Coeur en Péril. Pierre Bernac (tenor) with Francis Poulenc (piano). 2 sides, 10" disc, No. V-2011, price \$1.50.
- VERACINI:** Sonata in E Minor—Gigue; Menuet; Gavotte (arr. J. Salmon). Jacques Thibaud (violin) and Tasso Janopoulos (piano). 2 sides, 12" disc, No. V-15568, price \$2.00.
- VITALI:** Chaconne (arr. Charlier). Jacques Thibaud (violin) and Tasso Janopoulos (piano). 2 sides, 12" disc, No. V-15465, price \$2.00.
- VIVALDI:** Concerto da Camera (arr. Bach-Cortot). (3 sides) & Schumann: Fantasiestücke, Op. 12, No. 1 Des Abends. (1 side) Alfred Cortot (piano). 2-12" discs, Nos. V-15463/4 in VM-573, price complete with album \$4.50.
- Sonata in D Minor (Realization by C. Crussard).** "Ars Rediviva". 2 sides, 12" disc, No. V-12491, price \$1.50.

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